

## Prentice fight for survival embarrasses colleagues

not ministers supporting Mr Prentice in his fight for survival against left wingers were irrupted in Blackpool last night on the eve of a party conference by a document from their colleague's moderate supporters naming "communist sympathizers" among the party leadership. Ministers felt Mr Prentice's cause might be damaged.

## Fear that minister is overplaying hand

George Clark, Michael Heseltine, and other moderate Cabinet ministers pressed their embarrasing case last night on the eve of a party conference at the way Mr Prentice's moderate supporters named "communist sympathizers" among the party leadership. Ministers felt Mr Prentice's cause might be damaged.

Mr Prentice, who is in the firing line of a campaign to oust him from the party, was accused of "overplaying his hand" by his colleagues. The document, which was leaked to the press, named several ministers as "communist sympathizers" and accused Mr Prentice of "overplaying his hand" in his fight for survival.

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Police listening through a ventilator to the gunmen's conversation in the basement.

## London gunmen take hostages after robbery that 'went wrong'

By Michael Horsnell  
Gunmen, claiming to represent the "Black Liberation Front," were last night still holding seven Italian hostages in a basement in Knightsbridge, London, after releasing one "as a gesture of good faith". Police, many armed, surrounded the building.

Commander Ernest Bond of Scotland Yard said that three coloured gunmen were involved, armed with a double-barrelled shotgun and two pistols. He said that they claimed to represent the "Black Liberation Front", and that although police were taking the hostages seriously, the incident was being treated as a robbery which went wrong.

Mr Bond said that the hostages had been released after a double-barrelled shotgun and two pistols. He said that they claimed to represent the "Black Liberation Front", and that although police were taking the hostages seriously, the incident was being treated as a robbery which went wrong.

other police trying to persuade the robbers to hand over their weapons. Unknown to the gunmen, police were able to listen to conversation in the basement through a ventilator near a rear exit to the building.

Sir Robert arrived at dawn and took charge of the police operation. He led a team of high-ranking officers, including Mr Wilford Gibson, deputy assistant commissioner, who was in charge of negotiating through the basement door with the gunmen, and Deputy Assistant Commissioner Ernest Bond and J. S. Wilson, together with senior officers from the Yard's A division.

More than 100 policemen, who set up a special headquarters in a building opposite the restaurant, were involved. The police recovered £11,000 from different parts of the premises. Some of it had been hidden under a table by the man who escaped.

Sensitive area: The gunmen chose the most security sensitive area of London to stage their hold-up (Clive Borrell writes). The Spaghetti House is in the heart of the "capital's" financial area, where most of the United Kingdom's diplomatic offices and homes of the world's governments.

Sir Robert Mark and his senior officers have feared that extremists might attempt to copy methods used in other European capitals, and hold hostages for ransom, making political demands for safe conduct or prison releases abroad. The United Kingdom has so far been spared this form of attack.

Senior officers took careful note of every incident in the siege, which will be examined in detail this week. To many of the operational officers the siege was an excellent exercise for any future incident involving diplomatic prisoners.

However, it is expected that approval for higher charges to be passed on to the customer.

## Army inquiry into how 10 part-time soldiers who died on river exercise failed to by-pass weir

From Arthur Osman, Newark  
The Army is to launch an urgent inquiry to find out why a boat containing 11 territorial soldiers failed to by-pass a weir, so that 10 of the men were swept to their deaths. The accident happened during a river exercise in Nottinghamshire before sunrise yesterday.

The soldiers, all from Scotland, were good swimmers and all wore life jackets. But only one of 11 men in their boat survived. It was swept over the weir five miles from Littleborough, Lincolnshire, where their two-day exercise was due to finish.

Their assault boat was swept over Cromwell weir in high wind and driving rain. The one survivor, who was detained last night at Newark General Hospital, suffering from exposure and exhaustion, is Lance Corporal Patrick Rarkin, of Denny, near Grangemouth.

The men, from 131 Independent Parachute Squadron, engineering section, Territorial Army, Grangemouth, were only five miles from their destination at the end of a 70-mile river journey.

Major Edward Loden, brigade major of 44 Parachute Brigade, said the exercise was designed to train the part-time soldiers in waterborne manoeuvres and had been held on the Trent before.

The troops were in constant radio contact with a following Land-Rover and had to pass through various checkpoints. If the outboard motor of the assault craft failed paddles were available.

A total of 67 men, supervised by nine officers and manning five assault craft, started the exercise at Burton-on-Trent on Saturday morning. By late evening, as sales swept the Midlands, they were approaching Newark.

Boat number three contained 11 men and, like the others, they were wearing lifejackets and had firm instructions to by-pass the weir, and resume the river exercise upstream. They were due near the village of Littleborough, where they were to be breakfast and then board their transport back to Scotland.

In the early hours of yesterday the gale and rain had produced a "raging torrent", according to police. The first two boats grounded, but boat number three for an unexplained reason did not put into the bank and at 4.40 am was carried to the weir and went over, spilling the 11 occupants into the fast-running river.

Electricity board workmen repairing installations damaged by gales heard the soldiers' cries and called the emergency services. At one stage several men appeared to be clinging in the boat in the rough water at the foot of the weir, but despite the use of police floating rescue apparatus across the river, only one man was pulled out alive by lifeline. Police attempted to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to two others pulled from the river.

By daylight yesterday six bodies had been recovered and a helicopter from RAF Leconfield found four more. A police underwater search team was brought in to try to recover them. Only the body of the captured boat was visible.

Nottinghamshire police said last night that they had spoken in hospital to Lance Corporal Rarkin. A senior police officer said that the weather, which had included gusts of 40 to 50 mph, had been ruled out as a cause of the accident. He declined to say anything else. It was said that the corporal's mind was a blank about the accident. He had been in the water clinging to the upturned boat for about 45 minutes before being rescued as police floated a line to him on three lifejackets.

The men whose bodies were recovered were: Mr Raymond Buchanan, aged 20, of Bow House Road, Grangemouth; Mr James Black, aged 18, of Moray Place, Grangemouth; Mr Stewart Evenden, aged 22, and his brother Peter, aged 19, of Randolph Street, Falkirk; Mr John Mercer, aged 17, of Dunlop, Grangemouth; and Mr Ronald Temperell, aged 26, of Billview Terrace, Alloa.

Frogmen searching for the four other victims were withdrawn last night because of the rush of water over the weir. The four were:

Mr Norman Bennett, aged 29, of Gadge Hill Crescent, Rosneath; Mr Terry Smith, aged 20, of Victoria Road, Falkirk; Mr Alexander O'Brien, aged 17, of Bristol Street, Alloa; and Mr Joseph Walker, aged 21, of Broomie Know, Tullibody.

## Callaghan reluctance to make final break

By David Spanier, Diplomatic Correspondent  
Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, will resist calls to break off diplomatic relations with Spain, as a protest against the executions. He will leave the decision to the cabinet, but in a doubt today, however, of the strength of the Government's condemnation of the executions after the international pact for clemency.

He is to review Anglo-Spanish relations with Mr Charles Wigg, the British Ambassador, who arrives in London today. Mr Wigg's recall for consultations is an expression of British disapproval and a sign that relations have fallen to an even lower point than they were under a Labour Government.

Relations may remain correct, but this recall of the ambassador is bound to affect the way in which British policy is conducted. It seems unlikely that there can be any thaw while the ambassador regime continues in power.

Mr Reginald Maudling, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, expressed concern about the conduct of the trials, but said he did not question the carrying out of the death penalty itself. He personally believes that the death penalty is right for wilful murder and a lot of people in this country undoubtedly believe that the death penalty is appropriate for the crime.

"I do not complain on that score about the executions. What is cause for concern is whether the condemned men had a proper trial. That is the real issue," Mr Callaghan should ask the ambassador if the trial was fair and the Government should then make a statement about it.

In a demonstration outside the Spanish Embassy in Belgrave Square, London, on Saturday night, a policeman was injured and three people arrested.

Paul Routledge, writes from Blackpool: Feeling among the trade unions was running high on the eve of the Labour Party conference.

The TUC international committee will meet to discuss the Labour movement's official reaction to the Spanish executions. The conference is over, but its chairman, Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the transport workers' union and a republican veteran of the Spanish Civil War, said: "I am hoping for spontaneous reactions. People can do things besides governments, such as not travelling by Iberia Airways and not taking holidays in Spain."

There could be delays in the handling of ships, aircraft and lorries from Spain. A lot of things could happen to embarrass and harass Spain, and these should be done.

## Spanish police fire on protesting crowd

Madrid, Sept. 28  
General Franco summoned at least five of his ambassadors to Madrid at the weekend after the wave of bitter international reaction to his execution yesterday of five political activists. (Protests continued today all over Europe. A fire damaged the Spanish Embassy in Holland. Seven countries have recalled their ambassadors from Madrid.)

In answer to hostile reactions at home, police opened fire on a crowd in Alcala, near Bilbao, breaking up a protest against the executions, according to official reports. The reports said that at least six people were injured, including an elderly woman who was shot in the leg and a youth of 18 who was hit in the chest.

At a brief protest demonstration outside Madrid Cathedral today, police arrested about 24 people, including four foreign correspondents. The foreign correspondents and three Spanish journalists were released within about an hour.

The demonstrators poured out of the cathedral, and shouted: "No to executions" and "Freedom, freedom". Some of them scattered flowers on the floor of the cathedral.

Other demonstrations took place in various parts of Spain including San Sebastian, but details were not immediately available.

Among the ambassadors called home for urgent consultations was the envoy to the Vatican. He was summoned apparently in response to Pope Paul's disclosure that his three appeals to General Franco for clemency went unheeded.

The entire diplomatic mission, except for a chargé d'affaires, was withdrawn from Lisbon where a mob sacked the Spanish Embassy. Other ambassadors ordered home were those assigned to Norway, the Netherlands and East Germany.

The five men who died before firing squad, shortly after dawn yesterday, were: Señor Angel Ortega, shot in Burgos; Señor Juan Barreda, shot in Barcelona; and Señor José Luis Sánchez-Bravo, shot in Madrid. Señor Ramón García and Señor José Humberto Baena, shot in Madrid.

The first two were members of the separatist organization ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty), and the others were members of a Maoist movement known as FRAP (Revolutionary Anti-Fascist Patriotic Front). All were convicted of terrorism by courts martial in the past few weeks in cases involving the killing of policemen.

It was at first generally believed that they would be put to death by means of the customary Spanish execution instrument, the garrote. However, apparently the military authorities were allowed to choose the method of execution.

All the news media have carried reports of attacks on

## Effiant ANC ck Mr Nkomo

led by exiled nationalists as illegals and discredited, the controversial congress of the National Council met in Salisbury on Monday. Mr Joshua Nkomo as its new president in place of Bishop Abel Muzorewa, absent through ill health, pledged himself to achieve immediate independence in Rhodesia, preferably by negotiation, but failing this through an intensified struggle.

## Ir killed in aircraft crash in Scotland

corpse, all believed to be from Lancashire, a night when their light aircraft crashed Galloway Hills, in south-west Scotland, crash, a Piper Aztec, had just taken off from a private airport, bound for Blackpool. Two men heard it crash in isolated area near Loch Doon, Dumfries and Galloway, and found the wreckage and four bodies.

## mans hold EEC key

of the West Germans will be in determining the most difficult negotiating the European Community, the or and the size of next year's budget. In as they are resolved to restrict EEC

## Rate: The success of some police

as against crime was reported at a meeting and other workers at the weekend.

## Deaths: Two soldiers died when their

at on off the road and caught fire in high yesterday.

## ing press freedom: Any requirement

incompatible with press freedom, the council says in a report to the royal

## dispute: About 3,000 British Leyland

at Solihull may be laid off today because of a dispute at a components plant

## More incitement charges

Four more people have been charged with offences under the Incitement to Disaffection Act, after the distribution of a leaflet at a Scottish barracks. Fourteen of the 22 people now charged in connection with the Central Criminal Court today. Incitement Act, page 12

## Chad orders French out

Chad has ordered France to withdraw all its military staff within one month. They total 2,000 men, including many attached to the Chad 2,000 men. Relations have deteriorated over dealings between Paris and the Tubu guerrillas holding Nime Clausse in ransom. Page 4

## Features, page 5 and 12

David Leigh explains how a leaflet for "disaffected" soldiers fell foul of the law. Andrew Faulds says the features that provoked the court case. Lord Chatterton on defence spending. Leader page 13. Letters: On selective education from Dr Richard A. Letters: On selective education from Dr Richard A. Letters: On selective education from Dr Richard A. Letters: On selective education from Dr Richard A.

## John Percival on Nureyev and Scottish Ballet

in Madrid and Coppélia at Sadler's Wells. C. C. T. on the Letters of Sean O'Casey. William Mann on the Rhinoceros (Covent Garden). Professor C. H. Waddington, General Sir William Pitt. Sport, pages 6-8.

## Terms: Czechoslovakia reach the final of the Davis

cup: Racing: prospects for French and English programmes. Boxing: All and Fraser weigh in for the world heavyweight championship.

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## Fear of 8p a gallon rise on petrol after Opec decision spurs call for VAT cut

By David Young  
The Opec price increase would raise prices to the consumer by about 1.5p a gallon on an across-the-board basis, according to the oil companies. The companies will be telling the Price Commission that an increase of 1.4p a gallon is all that is needed to combat the effects of inflation alone.

There will be considerable pressure on the Government from the motorist organizations and the car industry not to load the price of petrol as has happened in the past, but to spread the increase evenly across the whole range of oil products.

There is, however, no indication that the Government will do other than use the motorist to cushion industry from the full effects of the price rise, and with petrol accounting for only 15 per cent of oil consumption, a rise of up to 8p a gallon in the forecourt pump is considered by the oil companies as a possibility.

Motorist organizations and the petrol retailers—which are going out of business at the rate of 10 a day in some areas—plan to ask the Government to cut the rate of VAT on petrol from its present 25 per cent and to reduce duty, which is 22.1p a gallon.

Companies also fear that the Government will force them to spread the increases over the range of products in such a way that consumption, already down about 18 per cent this year, will fall further. The home-heating oil market, the companies point out, is one where any increase in costs will accelerate the move away from oil-fired central heating to the other fuels.

Government reaction to the increases has been the assertion that in the longer term they will boost the value of North Sea assets, making some smaller marginal fields profitable. Initially it will increase our imports by an estimated £350m.

The Opec decision has added an estimated £100m to the oil bill in Britain, in transit from the Middle East.

With the new price rising by 10 per cent from October 1 to £11.51 a barrel, and with an estimated 33 million tons—there are seven barrels in a ton—in stock or in transit, the on-paper stock profits are substantial.

Opec has decreed that the new price will remain frozen until next June and that the dollar will continue as the oil industry's calculating currency. However, it is expected that when the oil companies come to argue their case with the Price Commission to establish how the higher prices of crude should be passed on to the consumer, they will point out that this stock profit will hardly cover their losses over the past two months caused by the fall in sterling.

The commission will also be told that this added value will go towards compensating for the time-lag between the oil companies paying higher prices and the commission giving its approval for higher charges to be passed on to the customer.

In Japan plans to cut imports by 6.5 per cent between the end of this year and 1979 and 3.4 per cent for the rest of this year have already been put before the Minister of International Trade and Industry, while in the United States the oil companies have stepped up pressure for the introduction of an overall fuel policy.

In Kuwait the decision has prompted a Cabinet statement that the higher prices do not equal the losses caused by the inflation, although Kuwait's oil revenue will rise by £200m annually.

Saudi-Iran rift, page 15

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## In brief

### Radio to give job vacancies

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500 Chiswick High Road, London W4 5R.W, or the Qantas desk, Terminal 3, London Heathrow Airport. Enquiries and Reservations London 01-995 1344, or Birmingham 021-643 4948/9,  
Bristol 0272-20127/8, Manchester 061-832 7161 and Glasgow 041-248 7633/4.



## HOME NEWS

## Soldiers die in Ulster road crash blaze

Two soldiers died when their scout car swerved off the road, overturned and burst into flames yesterday outside Bessbrook, Co. Armagh. They were Corporal David Llewellyn, aged 21, of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, of Whiteley Bay, Northern Ireland, and Trooper Robert Barracough, aged 19, of the 1st/18th The Royal Hussars, of Barnsley. Both were single.

A man, beaten to death in East Belfast early yesterday, was identified as Mr John Dunne, aged 59, a Protestant, of Taney Street. He was attacked by two youths in a street off Beersbridge Road. A police official said: "The reason for this killing is a mystery."

The Royal Ulster Constabulary was investigating a complaint that one of its officers was beaten up by a soldier near Belfast city centre.

Twenty-three inmates of the borstal wing of Armagh jail were transferred to Belfast because of a riot at Armagh on Saturday night. During the disturbance the rioters damaged furniture in the cells and also cell doors. At the same time prisoners in the women's wing, which houses the Prison Sisters, began making a noise, a Government spokesman said.

One of the women injured her arm while she was locked in her cell and required hospital treatment.

It was the second disturbance at Armagh in a week.

The Government in Dublin hopes to get its part of new Anglo-Irish terrorist legislation on the statute books by Christmas. Mr Declan Costello, the Attorney General, said yesterday.

The proposed measures would be debated in the Dail in the autumn and reach the voting stage soon afterwards.

Mr Costello, the Prime Minister, said in a radio interview that British criticism of the alleged delays over the proposed law had been expected.

There has been no great delay on the part of the Irish Government," he said.

## Pensioners 'selling sleep drug'

Some pensioners were selling their sleeping tablets to young drug addicts at 25p a capsule, Sir Ronald Gibson, chairman of the anti-drug steering committee, said yesterday.

Sir Ronald, chairman of the Department of Health's standing medical advisory committee and a former chairman of the British Medical Association, said old people were given barbiturates when they complained to doctors of sleeplessness.

"Doctors have thought it quite safe to give the drug to old people, that it does not matter at that age if it is habit forming," he said. "But it does matter if the patient goes straight to the nearest pub and sells it to some teenager."

He had first learnt of pensioners' involvement in the drug scene from a social worker giving evidence to the anti-drug steering committee.

The committee's work led to the setting up of the Campaign on the Use and Restriction of Barbiturates (CURB), which launched last week a new programme to obtain action by doctors.

"Evidence to my committee showed me that we doctors were creating the problem and leaving it to young social workers, probation officers and policemen to cope with it," Sir Ronald added.

The eight million prescriptions a year written for "outdated" barbiturates undoubtedly provided the main source for the drug black market in large cities.

Broken sleep was a normal feature of aging which most old people would accept if reassured about it by their doctors.

## New rules to aid pit health

## Mechanical 'noses' sniff the air under ground

Half a mile below ground, in the dark and dim, new noses sniff the air. They are mechanical noses: monitors in the front line of the fight against the sharp, fine dust that causes the cruel miners' disease, pneumoconiosis, for which, in the past 10 months, sufferers have been paid compensation of £118m.

From tomorrow, the metal noses, which record the amount of breathable dust in a mine, are part of a new package of regulations the law demands for miners' protection.

Regulations are especially important in men in South Wales, where the dust hazard is greater, and the incidence of pneumoconiosis is higher than anywhere else in Britain.

Dust disease, and fear of it, are important factors in the complicated equation of mining in Wales, where the prize is the world's best anthracite, and Europe's best coke, and the price is a battle against the worst mining conditions anywhere. The perpetual challenge is to balance the factors: cost, manpower, machines, health and human relationships. The nature of the coal and the rock in which it lies sandwiched makes going hard and the pits dusty.

But pneumoconiosis is not only a medical and engineering problem: it is an emotive subject in Welsh valleys where people have seen far too many

## Explain Cabinet paper 'leak' Mr Short urged

A Labour MP yesterday called on Mr Short, leader of the Commons, to explain an alleged "massive leak" of Cabinet papers on power devolution to Scotland and Wales.

The call came from Mr Tam Dalyell, MP for West Lothian and chairman of the Scottish group of Labour MPs.

A report in *The Sunday Times* yesterday said that the Government was in trouble with its promise to legislate in the coming session for separate assemblies for Scotland and Wales. The newspaper said that it had seen copies of Cabinet committee papers.

In a letter to Mr Short, the minister in charge of the intended Devolution Bill, Mr Dalyell said: "John White [who wrote the report] talked to me a fortnight ago, as he did to many others, but I had no indication that Cabinet papers would be leaked."

He suggested that if the leaks were genuine it might be sensible to publish all the documents. "However, as a matter of urgency, I would ask for your comment on the damaging assertion attributed to you that no government is not at issue."

Call for guarantee: Wales and Scotland should receive an immediate cast iron guarantee from the Cabinet that there would be no reversal of its promise to bring devolution.

Mr Dalyell Williams, general secretary of Plaid Cymru, has

old Mr Short in a letter released yesterday. He said the disclosures in *The Sunday Times* "show that pressure of public opinion led by the two national parties is the only guarantee of action."

"The secret Cabinet papers reveal a complete and deplorable cynicism in Whitehall regarding devolution, and make it quite plain that the Labour Government is more concerned about losing votes than looking after the interests of the people of Wales and Scotland."

Trevor Fishlock writes from Cardiff: The confidential Cabinet papers were seen by me last week and their contents disclosed in an article in *The Times* on Thursday.

They showed that civil servants and other advisers have serious reservations about the devolution of power to the proposed Welsh and Scottish assemblies. The Cabinet is advised that the economic and industrial restraints must be kept firmly in the hands of central government.

The papers give a rare insight into Civil Service thinking. The theme of the advice on framing the Devolution Bill is that the Government should appear to be giving substantial devolved power, while giving relatively little.

The tone reveals Civil Service fears that devolution has not been given enough thought. Leading article, page 13

## Code of conduct 'would fetter press freedom'

By a Staff Reporter  
Any requirement that newspapers should be bound to a form of behaviour would involve control over publication, would be debated in the Dail in the autumn and reach the voting stage soon afterwards.

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## The Pope repeats rebuke to Spain

From Our Correspondent  
Rome, Sept 28

Representatives of the Spanish Government, who were normally expected to be present at the canonization of St Peter's Square today when the Pope canonized a Spanish saint.

Their absence, remarkably considering the deep Catholic traditions of Spain, marked a new climax to the tension which has been developing between the church and General Franco's regime over the past few years.

It was considered to be at least partly motivated by the Pope's bitter condemnation yesterday of the execution of five Spanish guerrillas and of the "harsh repression" in Spain.

The Pope disclosed that he had appealed four times for clemency, the final attempt being a personal message of honour, Franco was recalled to Madrid for consultations.

The official Spanish delegation to the canonization of Juan Macias, a Spanish missionary to Peru who died in 1645, cancelled its visit. The Italian Government is understood to have made it known it could not guarantee the safety of its citizens in Italy.

An official reception at the Spanish Embassy in Rome, which the occasion was also called off. At the canonization, the Pope referred again to the executions, briefly and in milder tones. Our job would have been fuller," he said. "If it had not been overshadowed by the well-known events of the past days."

The Pope's vehement condemnation of the executions came when he spoke to pilgrims yesterday. He told them: "Last night, after learning of the confirmation of the sentences, we again heard those whose duty it was, in the name of God, to choose the path of magnanimity and clemency rather than that of murderous repression. Regrettably, we were not listened to."

The Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, said Spain had ignored "the last appeal made last night to the Spanish head of state."

It printed the Pope's declaration in full on its front page, in bold type and underlined.

The Pope told the pilgrims that because the executions had taken place on the eve of the canonization "our bitterness is so much deeper."

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## WEST EUROPE

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From Our Correspondent  
Rome, Sept 28

Representatives of the Spanish Government, who were normally expected to be present at the canonization of St Peter's Square today when the Pope canonized a Spanish saint.

Their absence, remarkably considering the deep Catholic traditions of Spain, marked a new climax to the tension which has been developing between the church and General Franco's regime over the past few years.

It was considered to be at least partly motivated by the Pope's bitter condemnation yesterday of the execution of five Spanish guerrillas and of the "harsh repression" in Spain.

The Pope disclosed that he had appealed four times for clemency, the final attempt being a personal message of honour, Franco was recalled to Madrid for consultations.

The official Spanish delegation to the canonization of Juan Macias, a Spanish missionary to Peru who died in 1645, cancelled its visit. The Italian Government is understood to have made it known it could not guarantee the safety of its citizens in Italy.

An official reception at the Spanish Embassy in Rome, which the occasion was also called off. At the canonization, the Pope referred again to the executions, briefly and in milder tones. Our job would have been fuller," he said. "If it had not been overshadowed by the well-known events of the past days."

The Pope's vehement condemnation of the executions came when he spoke to pilgrims yesterday. He told them: "Last night, after learning of the confirmation of the sentences, we again heard those whose duty it was, in the name of God, to choose the path of magnanimity and clemency rather than that of murderous repression. Regrettably, we were not listened to."

The Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, said Spain had ignored "the last appeal made last night to the Spanish head of state."

It printed the Pope's declaration in full on its front page, in bold type and underlined.

The Pope told the pilgrims that because the executions had taken place on the eve of the canonization "our bitterness is so much deeper."

While condemning all acts of terrorism, he expressed "passionate condemnation of such harsh repression."

Michael Knight writes from Lisbon: The Portuguese newspaper *O Observador* said that because the executions had taken place on the eve of the canonization "our bitterness is so much deeper."

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Cardinal Enrique y Tarancón, right, the liberal Archbishop of Madrid, stands at the Pope's side during the canonization of a Spanish saint in Rome yesterday after the Spanish Government's representatives, the guests of honour, cancelled their visit.

Government condemned the mob action, promised to pay full compensation and indicated its intention to expel Spanish revolutionaries.

Military police and firemen stood by on Friday night while the crowds wrecked the two buildings. Major Melo Antunes, the Foreign Minister, has admitted that he made repeated but unsuccessful efforts to obtain military intervention.

The Spanish Ambassador and 40 of his staff returned to Spain yesterday, but a Portuguese Foreign Office spokesman said: "Dialogue between the two countries is still continuing. We hope relations will not be broken off. We will do everything possible to avoid this."

The Lisbon Government's statement deplored "the political and moral depravity" and "unqualified vandalism" of the mob. It said refugees of uncertain origin were partly responsible for the attacks.

Charles Hargrove writes from Paris: The executions in Spain have caused indignation throughout France. It is by no means confined to the left, but extends to leading churchmen, politicians, and even individual ministers, such as Mme Simone Veil, although the Government as such has remained silent.

In Paris, Lyons, Bordeaux, Marseilles, and Toulouse, there were violent clashes between police and demonstrators. Damage to Spanish consular offices, cultural and commercial premises is extensive.

A time bomb went off in the Champe-Elisees last night and eight people in a cinema queue were injured by flying glass.

The main Paris-Hendaye line was rocked by an explosion just after midnight as the Madrid Express went by. The locomotive was damaged, but the train was able to continue its journey.

The rioting in the Champe-Elisees district, in which the Spanish Embassy is located, was reminiscent of May 1968. Youngs roamed the area, breaking the windows of banks, shops, and restaurants, setting fire to cars, smashing traffic signals, and street signs, and even attempting to build a barricade.

Their targets were indiscriminate, from the offices of Agence France Press to the Chrysler Showrooms, where the bomb went off. Twenty-two policemen were injured in the fighting, and 53 persons were arrested.

Left-wing parties and organizations have issued a call for a mass demonstration tomorrow from the Place de la Republique to the Bastille to protest against the executions. They also call upon all workers to down tools for five minutes at noon.

Prostitutes in Lyons have asked a telegram to be sent asking him to excommunicate General Franco, "that sanguinary dictator."

Stockholm, Sept 28—Mr Olaf Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, today described the leaders of Spain as "these satanic murderers."

Speaking at the congress of the ruling Social Democratic Party, he predicted that the Spanish regime would fall apart "in the same dramatic way as it rose to power 30 years ago."

Mr Palme said his government had decided to allocate 200,000 kronor (£22,000) for "free Spain." He did not say how the money would be channelled.—AP.

David Cross writes from Brussels: The outcry in many EC member states over the executions is bound to lead to a cooling of relations between Madrid and the Community.

Señor Sánchez-Bravo, a 21-year-old student and FRAP

monarchist daily ARC entitled "Intolerable savagery." The "Intolerable savagery" did not refer to the executions but rather to the destruction of the embassy in Lisbon.

Two of the condemned men left letters to relatives which they wrote shortly before going before the firing squads. Basque activist, Señor Baredes Mann, wrote: "Long live solidarity among oppressed peoples. Homeland or death."

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## Paris asked to remove forces from Chad

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Sept 28

Negotiations will be continued between the French Government and the Tuareg guerrillas, the leader of the Tuareg guerrillas of Chad, for the release of Mme Françoise Claustre, the French ethnologist, and the simultaneous handing over of 6m francs (£660,000) worth of stores, part of her ransom.

M. Louis Murel, the prefect of the Vaucluse department, handed over 1m francs in cash last week when he flew to the Tibesti desert to meet Mr Habre.

The Chad Government has ordered the withdrawal within one month of all French military staff from the country. These total some 2,000 men, including 300 officers and NCOs, attached to the Chad forces for training and technical assistance.

But there seems to be no question as yet of a breach of diplomatic relations. The mediation of President Banga of Gabon, and of President Nguabi of Congo, who was in Ndjamena, the capital of Chad, last week, may ward off the worst, which neither France, because of Chad's minimum, nor Chad, for economic reasons, can afford.

There has been in the press and in political circles a strong suspicion that the French authorities have not acted as quickly as they should have done in the night over the Claustre affair.

France's *Le Monde* yesterday published a statement by M. Pierre Claustre, the ethnologist's husband, who is a prisoner of Mr Habre since September 1, when he went to the Tibesti desert to try to secure his wife's release.

M. Claustre recalls a conversation which he had in March with a close assistant of M. Habre, the Minister for Communication, in which the official said: "Everyone is fed up with this affair. I cannot do anything. I am a discredited official."

M. Claustre then asked whether this meant that the Government did not care. "Of course, the Government does not care a damn, nor does anyone else," he said.

The Ministers for Cooperation and the Ministry of the Overseas, and the Ministry of the Overseas, explained the situation in their statements.

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thought the unusually large crowd would be disappointed with his performance. "I expected to be booing," Vesco said. "I expected to see a Pommie get out twice for one run, so what more could they want?"

After the race, Vesco held for the two-hour waiting period before arriving here on a delayed flight from his native South Africa. He noted the loss and his team had to wait for the results. "We were all out for 38 in their first

runners-up place for the sixth time in a world championship.

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## Vesco to try again

Bonneville Salt Flats (Utah), Sept. 28.—Donald Vesco, of the United States, yesterday came close to breaking the 300 miles per hour barrier when he averaged a world speed record of 289.4 mph over two runs on his specially over-















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## SPANISH EXECUTIONS

It is murder committed in the name of revolutionary aims and in the name of the laws of the land. When the laws of the land are admitted to be the cause of death (as the laws of the land did until ten years ago, and still do for the death of the appropriate for that crime. The reaction to the execution in Spain, by the chance as well as the mobs of the mob, is not to be justified by the laws of the land. It is a fact that the laws of the land have been found guilty of terrorist offences. But in the Spanish context factors which make the nature of the reaction more acute.

Every regime seeks to be virtually all manifestations of political dissent, it revolutionary violence itself. The perpetrators of the crimes are widely condoned outside the time itself. In this case, the conduct of the trial, military court has been used on procedural grounds. There is serious doubt whether the accused had a fair trial. The death penalty had been a chance of review reveals a scandalous disregard of human rights. This is no mere out of the regime itself. Of it comes as no surprise. The nature of the regime has been known. But at this moment, Spain is so close and sympathetic to the conduct of the trial, military court has been used on procedural grounds. There is serious doubt whether the accused had a fair trial. The death penalty had been a chance of review reveals a scandalous disregard of human rights. This is no mere out of the regime itself. Of it comes as no surprise.

## FALLS ON THE PATH TO DEVOLUTION

ports in *The Times* last and *The Sunday Times* say of papers prepared for the committee on devolution, an indication of the ties that the Government is outwitting in planning for the Welsh Assemblies. The committee of two kinds, the problem of devolving power between the Government and the new bodies that would prove in practice, and there political problem created growing body of sceptics in the Government in Parliament.

First problem should come to the idea of an ally without considering the idea of a country Britain, with a strong tradition of government, I never be a simple matter to develop subsidiary parliaments. Despite the Labour's commission, and one of our writers and down the years, the conversion to devolution is only in response to as deemed to be irresistible from Scottish, and much less extent Welsh, political resistance has partly because of those who want to see the original commitment to think seriously that it means and partly the public pressure for is thought to have As a judgement of Scottish that is dangerous. There about that the issue has the boil there. The new

## Wood

## Our again ids at the ssroads

argaret Thatcher and I, no one at Westminster, are the name of the Council of Osborne, a persona, a, and a place in time, an older man, he was a "Mr. Thatcher" through the 1920s and 1930s, and secretary-agent of the local party. It used to be my as an apprentice reporter, occasional dealings with I as I and a holiday, and way to Blackpool for the party conference, his name to mind and begins to again an undeniable fact. For me, whether I succeed in the resurrection of his is something to say grave about the Labour, as a borough Hampden, to create.

Osborne, in his age, was a man, all above the with a silver head and the yes and voice to be found a march. Yet he had the station of a Bolshevik. I still resignally a market farmers' wives bringing butter for sale in wicker very Saturday, he had led during the early 1930s at a firm of any size, and to say without the least the management had ere that he should never again. He had also part in setting up a short-lived Sunday school, a that allowed no forgive-constituency Labour Party, ran a third in every to Conservatives and invented the post of agent at £1 a week to a to live. He worked from in the town that only the idents knew how to find,

International opinion will then be further alienated. Even though terrorism is now an international disease that is feared and condemned across a wide area of the political spectrum, regardless of the political spectrum, still a bonus of sympathy for those who use violence against regimes which allow no democratic channels of dissent. This sympathy is liable to grow in proportion to the harshness of General Franco's counter-measures, regardless of the merits of the Basque cause.

For western governments this sharpens the dilemma with which Franco's Spain has always presented them. Their response needs to be carefully judged. They must make known their disapproval because to do otherwise would encourage democratic forces in Spain and provide ammunition for anti-democratic left-wing forces. On the other hand they need, to keep doors open in the hope of eventually receiving a democratic Spain into the European Community.

Total boycotts, or the severance of diplomatic relations, would be inappropriate. For the moment a conscious cooling of relations is what is needed. Those western ambassadors who have been recalled should not return in a hurry to their embassies. The Americans can do without the renewal of their agreement on military bases for the moment, since the old agreement which expired last week gives them a year to leave. It should be made clear to General Franco that there is a price to be paid for gross, a departure from the political values and opinions of western Europe.

## Mr Prentice's views

From Mr Neville Sandelson, Labour MP for Hillingdon, Hayes and Uxbridge.

Sir, You report today (September 27) my colleague, Mr Norman Atkinson, MP, as demanding that the Prime Minister make it clear that his letter of support for Mr Prentice at the time of the election should not be mistaken as an endorsement of the views Mr Prentice was now expressing.

One must charitably assume that Mr Atkinson was merely engaging in pre-conference rhetoric. The letter in question, which I received in July (which happened to be addressed to me) contained not the slightest hint or indication of support for Mr Prentice's views as such at that time, and that therefore the letter is not to be taken as an endorsement of anything that Mr Prentice has said since.

Indeed, the Prime Minister's letter simply showed the same con-

cern for fundamental principles of parliamentary democracy, and for tolerance and free speech, felt by some three-fifths of the Parliamentary Labour Party and a majority of the Cabinet. We must not let the so-called "Prentice letter" in its constituency party. It is difficult to imagine that this large proportion of all Labour MPs, which included a significant number of Mr Atkinson's constituents, Group colleagues and other left-wingers would have added their names if they had thought that it would be suggested then or since that they were endorsing Mr Prentice's views. All that they were doing then, and logically would still do whatever they may feel about Mr Prentice's latest speech at Blackpool, was to uphold his right to express his opinions without harassment and threat of expulsion from public life.

Yours faithfully,  
NEVILLE SANDELSON,  
House of Commons,  
September 27.

## Selective education: Russia's system

From Dr Richard A. Cardwell.

Sir, The letter from the Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Novosibirsk City Soviet, Working People's Deputies (September 20, 1975) raises an issue that transcends the present party-political battle over selective or comprehensive education. The Executive Committee of Novosibirsk could be of benefit to Britain as the writer suggests.

The first lesson is for the Ministry of Education. At this moment the system of minority subjects in many British schools is under threat as never before and especially languages. With the imminent dissolution of the direct-grant and convent schools, the situation will deteriorate. In Russia, by contrast, the study of major foreign languages is cherished.

The centres where a number of subjects are taught in a foreign language are designed to ensure their graduates a practical mastery of a foreign language for ensuing work in various branches of the sciences, technology, science, sociology and culture. The establishment of special schools is the Vice-Chairman adds, "was really dictated by national economic needs."

The second lesson then is for the Ministry of Employment and the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Britain is an ailing economic power. Britain is essentially a trading nation, poor in natural resources and food but rich in every other kind of skill. The skills of her schoolchildren, German and Italian are already official languages of the EEC. Spain will probably petition for membership in the foreseeable future. The Community. Nor should we forget that Spanish and Portuguese are the official languages of the markets of the South American continent and the former language the most spoken after English. Trade and economic ties with the Soviet bloc are growing.

If the numbers of talented linguists coming forward in our schools are to be given no opportunity to acquire a language other than French, where are the graduates with "a practical mastery of a foreign language for ensuing work in various branches of the national economy, science, technology and culture" to come from? The era when we expected the rest of the world to speak English is over. The present policy of there is one) concerning modern language teaching in schools and universities amounts to a national scandal.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD A. CARDWELL,  
Department of Spanish,  
The University of Nottingham,  
University Park, Nottingham.

## Charitable status of schools

From the Headmaster of King's College, Tipton.

Sir, It would seem that the recent report published by the House of Commons Expenditure Committee raises a fundamental issue with regard to the chief purpose of many independent schools in this country.

It is suggested that the just definition of a charity should be a body engaged in the pursuit of a public benefit. The independent schools—other than those catering specially for handicapped children—would not be deemed to measure up to this criterion.

My own school was founded by a private individual, with no obligations to teach and train the young in the faith and fear of God. This continues to be the school's principal aim, the top priority to all its teaching and, in quiet sincerity, the soul of its existence. I know for certain that the same ideas are fostered by scores of other independent schools throughout the land—many of them quite unassuming schools, whose pupils come from homes where the parents' sacrifice in paying the fees is very deep in terms of what they are willing to go without for themselves.

In these circumstances, does the House of Commons seriously intend to maintain that the teaching of the Christian faith to those who seek it for their children is no longer a purpose beneficial to the community? If this is the case, then perhaps we have not far to look in order to discover one of the root causes of some of the more disappointing moral standards of our country today.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES BATTEN, Headmaster,  
King's College,  
Tipton,  
Somerset.

## Transport policies

From Mr R. H. Phillips.

Sir, Mr T. E. M. McKitterick, Chairman of Economic Associates Ltd, writes (September 22) that "road transport already receives a substantial subsidy in the sense that road construction and maintenance costs are not directly chargeable to the user and are nowhere near fully recovered from him even indirectly."

To be set against this claim that road use is unfairly subsidized, is the high burden of tax—almost £3,000 million this year after increased taxation in the April 1975 Budget—which accounts for a large proportion of the cost of road use and substantially exceeds the costs of road provision.

Official figures for 1970-71 show that, after counting not only the cost of providing, maintaining and lighting the road system but also police, accident and administrative costs, road users as a whole paid 22 times the cost they imposed on the community. Estimates for 1975-76 indicate that this relationship has changed little over the past five years and that the tax surplus is of the order of £1,500 million.

Total road user taxation represents some 12 per cent of the nation's revenue from all taxes. This is far from the "substantial subsidy" suggested by Mr McKitterick and is considerably higher than in other EC countries.

There is, of course, no reason why road users should not be taxed over

## Treasure hunting

From Mr Michael J. Longfield.

Sir, I am writing in defence of the now many thousands of metal detector owners, after reading Mr Thomas's letter, September 17, decrying their use. I am a detector owner, and also a life-time amateur archaeologist with many artefacts to my credit now in many Midland museums. Does not Mr Thomas realize that because of a metal detector's limitations in depth detection capability, all finds have to be already near the surface of the ground to be detected, and this being so, such a very good chance of being damaged beyond any recognition by today's modern agricultural machinery such as the rotavator, or in the case of coin hoards scattered over the whole field as snags that have been found?

Both finds at Durobrivae were near the surface of the field, so could not be stratified, so nothing could be learned there, apart from exact location of finds which I'm sure Peterborough Museum have noted. It's a pity that some archaeologists are still so biased against

## Third World and the Church

From the Rev George Austin.

Sir, Your Religious Affairs Correspondent is right (*The Times*, September 22) in view of the coming general assembly of the World Council of Churches as a watershed, but many would feel it to be such not for the churches of the West but for the WCC itself.

Theology must surely be about the glory of God revealed in every aspect of His creation, and Christian theology about salvation offered through His Son, Jesus Christ. It is to be alive and active, and of course it must be related to experience and must speak to man's relationship with man; but if it is also to be valid, it must stem from a primary study of man's relationship with God.

When it is concerned, as it must be, with politics, it can only have relevance when the Christian principles are given priority over political idealism. Unfortunately, WCC theology gives the consistent impression that this Godward dimension is totally neglected and that political principles, especially of the Marxist variety, reign supreme, a fact which gives rise to a moderate Socialist like myself.

The so-called "theology of liberation" has been presented by the WCC as the authentic voice of the Third World; Jesus is the secular revolutionary; and alive and active in the justification of violence in the name of Christ and the consequent support, through the Programme to Combat Racism in particular, of organizations dedicated to violence and terrorism. Only by the accept-

## Situation in Somalia

From Mr Basil Davidson.

Sir, Six months ago you enabled me to draw attention to the possibly catastrophic consequences of a drought then raging in Somalia; to the courage and honesty of the Somali government in its efforts to avert such consequences, or at least greatly to reduce their severity; and to the need for foreign aid. All those who responded, whether privately or in public ways, may now like to know what the outcome has been. May I briefly summarize?

Generally, the mid-drought predictions of the government were proved not too pessimistic. By the end of the drought, happily with abundant rainfall near the beginning of June, just on one million nomads (or semi-nomads) were receiving aid in food and water aside from those who had become more or less destitute. The letter numbered an eventual total of 268,597 in 20 relief camps. Altogether, this was between one quarter and one third of the republic's whole population. Most of the people in the camps had lost all or nearly all of their livestock, and much of their normal grazing had become little better than desert.

Energetic and effective relief made it possible to keep human losses to a figure far below the appalling level that must have occurred without such relief. It appears that some 7,000 people died before they could reach or be trucked to the camps, and that another 11,000 died inside the camps. Most of the latter, perhaps as much as 85 per cent, were children under about seven years old who had reached the camps in a condition of weakness that proved beyond all remedy. However mourned, these deaths must be seen in the circumstances as relatively few. Animal losses, on the contrary, have been enormous, amounting perhaps, in some of the worst districts, to about a million cattle, about 5,750,000 sheep and goats, and perhaps 520,000 camels.

Late in 1974 the government had foreseen that large numbers of nomads must be persuaded to change their way of life. In the event, loss of livestock and grazing grounds has proved a most effective persuader in this plan to create a less precarious national economy.

In July and August, when the relief camps could be closed, the following happened. Some 60,000 inmates who still had a little live-

## The Greek trireme

From Lieutenant Commander D. F. Russell, RN.

Sir, The lively and entertaining correspondence on the performance of the trireme has covered many aspects of the problem but appears to have neglected the most important aspect of all—the inherent limitations of oars as a means of propulsion.

If an oar-propelled vessel, whatever its size or shape, is to achieve a given speed through the water, it is obviously necessary for the blades of the oars to be moved while they are in the water, at least that speed relative to the vessel. If they are not, they will retard rather than propel.

The speed in question, in a vessel of about 20 feet per second. Most oars, and I see no reason why trireme oars should have been an exception, are pivoted at about one third of their

## On the summit of Everest

From Miss Jan Morris.

Sir, "The first Britons on the summit of Everest!" It never occurred to me in 1953 that Edmund Hillary, the New Zealander, was actually not British, but now that the Empire is no more, and the United Kingdom has lost its appeal for many of us, isn't it time we abandoned this official epithet? You be English, O' be Welsh.

Yours faithfully,  
JAN MORRIS,  
Bwthyn Trefan,  
Llanymudry,  
Cricieth,  
Gwynedd,  
September 26.

stock preferred to chance their luck in returning to a nomadic life, and this they have now done. Another 340,000 agreed to move, and all had been transferred by the end of August. Of these about 120,000 are now gathered in three new farming settlements, two being on the Shebelle river west of Brava and the third being on the upper Juba river west of Kismayu, while the remainder have agreed to become fisherfolk in new or old communities along the seaboard. Another 60,000 odd of the camp inmates hesitated, waiting to see what would happen to those who agreed to move. By the end of August, having sent down observers to find out most of these had also agreed to move. They are now awaiting transport, and meanwhile continue to receive relief distributed from the northern towns.

All this is the story of a heart-warming success. This success has derived chiefly from the social and political efficacy of the Somali regime, not least in evoking a nationwide response to the threat of catastrophe: about 2,000 students, for example, joined the new settlements during July and are at present working there as teachers and technicians. It has also derived from rapid and in some cases generous foreign aid. Touring in Somalia last in August I was able to inspect the evidence for this success, and can report it as entirely convincing.

At the same time, it is clear need for continued foreign aid as to complete this successful transfer of destitute people to a new and assured way of life. The new farmers cannot be self-supporting in food for at least two years, and this is also pressing need for more bulldozers to plough cleared land, and for other essentials, including medical supplies. The new fisherfolk have a still greater need for new know-how as well as for power-driven boats, nets and other equipment. They also need free food until they can stand on their own feet.

Here is a case where a greatly impoverished people has staunchly and bravely faced its own problems. One may hope that foreign donors will see this as a case where one good turn on their part, should be followed by another.

Yours truly,  
BASIL DAVIDSON,  
2 Palace Yard,  
Barnard,  
September 21.







**Property advice nationwide**  
**Strutt and Parker**  
 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

## audi-Iran rift deepens despite Opec agreement on oil prices

Roger Violevoe  
 At Sept 28, the Arab and Iranian oil producers, the most powerful members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, will go to a preparatory meeting for the conference on oil, raw materials and the problems of the Third World on October 11, at Logghead, on the oil fields of oil prices.

A 10 per cent increase in oil followed by a nine per cent increase in oil prices has been agreed by the Opec members. The agreement is a significant step towards a more stable oil market, but it is not expected to resolve the deepening rift between the Arab and Iranian oil producers.

The Arab oil producers, led by Saudi Arabia, are demanding a 10 per cent increase in oil prices, while the Iranian oil producers are demanding a 10 per cent increase in oil prices. The Arab oil producers are also demanding a 10 per cent increase in oil prices, while the Iranian oil producers are demanding a 10 per cent increase in oil prices.

## 4000 may be laid off Leyland today

Mr. Shakespeare  
 Leyland, the British Leyland group, is expected to announce today that it will be laying off 4,000 workers. The announcement is expected to come during the company's annual general meeting.

The Leyland group, which includes Leyland Trucks, Leyland Motors, and Leyland Cars, is facing a severe financial crisis. The company is expected to announce that it will be laying off 4,000 workers, which would be a significant reduction in its workforce.

## 3 union boycott of grain shipments to Russia fails

rank Vuel  
 An attempt by American dockers to boycott grain shipments to the Soviet Union has failed. The boycott was organized by the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBCA).

The boycott was intended to pressure the Soviet Union to release political prisoners and to end its support for terrorism. However, the Soviet Union has refused to comply with the demands, and the boycott has failed.

the effect of another increase on their economies.

Dr. Amouzegar described the compromise on prices as a sign of good intentions for the dialogue. Soaring import costs among members of the organization, justified much greater increases.

The Indian Government described the 10 per cent rise as "very bad news for India". Imports of crude, running at 14 million tonnes a year, may have to be cut back by \$50,000 million.

India would presumably be one of the developing countries to qualify for aid under the Shah's plans to deduct 10 per cent of the price increase obtained by most Opec countries and place it in a special fund. About \$1,000m (about \$500m) would be available if all countries agreed.

The plan was discussed by Opec's finance ministers at a special meeting next month. Heated and prolonged discussions on prices prevented the meeting from discussing fully the proposed plan.

Also deferred was a change in the pricing differentials between the various grades of crude available throughout the world. Many countries with higher-priced oil have already downgraded their differentials in order to remain competitive, and Opec has officially given its blessing to this type of price-cutting.

The 10 per cent rise in prices will add the cost of a barrel of Arabian "market" crude from \$10.46 to \$11.51. Although this represents a 10 per cent increase to the consumer, it swells the producer countries' revenues by slightly more.

Although the percentage price increase is calculated on the whole of the market price, the bulk of the increase will go to the oil companies and not to the producers. The oil companies will receive a 10 per cent increase in their profits, while the producers will receive a 10 per cent increase in their revenues.



Mr. Knut Hammarskjöld, IATA director-general: gloom over growth.

## IATA chief sees new growth point in Mid-East

By Arthur Reed  
 Air Correspondent

Government policies in the major aviation nations were in turmoil, and in the absence of a coordinated policy framework airlines were faced with the prospect of a jungle existence, where life was nasty, brutish and short.

This is what Mr. Knut Hammarskjöld, director-general of the International Air Transport Association, will say in his state of the industry message at the opening of the association's annual meeting in Oslo today.

While the gradual turn about in the world economic situation would have a positive effect on air transport demand, the immediate outlook did not point to a return to the traffic growth rates of the past.

Preliminary 1975 results for the north Atlantic pointed to a 7 per cent decrease in scheduled passenger traffic. The longer-term prospects were dependent on economic conditions, and industry factors such as fare and rate levels and the extent to which the industry could adapt to difficult and rapidly changing conditions.

Total IATA traffic could be expected to grow at an average rate of 7.8 per cent over the next five years—a fairly strong growth, but considerably lower than the historical rate of 15 per cent. The forecast also showed that European and north Atlantic routes would show a lower than average rate because of the greater maturity of these markets.

In contrast, developing markets such as Europe-Middle East and the south Atlantic were expected to have the highest growth rates during the 1975-80 period of 13 and 12 per cent respectively.

## P & O boosts American energy assets by £24m

By Terry Byland

P & O is making a major expansion to its energy division in the form of the acquisition of £24m worth of oil and gas production assets in the United States. The deal coincides with the appointment of a new general manager to P & O Energy's oil and gas department, Mr. R. Povey, previously with Shell and with Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bankers.

Devon International, which is 60 per cent owned by P & O Energy Division, is acquiring oil and gas wells in nine American states from Kirby Petroleum, a subsidiary of Kirby Industries Inc., of Houston, Texas.

Of the full cost, only \$15m (or \$12m at most) will fall upon P & O itself. The rest is being financed by loans from banks in the United States, who will be repaid by production from the wells, which are already on stream.

No figure was put on the estimated income from the newly bought assets. But a spokesman for P & O said it would be "more than enough" to finance the loan.

P & O Energy Division, which was set up last year, has yet to contribute to group profits. The United States deal is by far the largest investment by the services division to date.

Its other United Kingdom interests consist of two minor North Sea servicing groups, Sea Oil Services and P & O Sub Sea. In the United States it already has a wholly owned exploration subsidiary, Surrey Engineering, and a 20 per cent stake in Falco, an oil and gas transport and trading company. There is also a stake in Hydrodynamic (HYCO), of Canada.

Devon International was established in 1971 to identify and acquire royalty interest in oil and gas producing properties in the United States. The 40 per cent stake outside P & O's shareholding is believed to be widely held by largely unidentified interests.

Mr. Povey, who has already taken up his position as general manager of P & O Energy's oil and gas department, succeeds Mr. M. Taylor, who is leaving the group to move to Vancouver but will continue as technical adviser to P & O as well as undertaking outside consultancy work.

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# Management

Edited by Rodney Cowton

## Training for European managers

The European Foundation for Management Development in Brussels, whose membership includes industrial companies and management schools in the countries of Europe, is setting up an international committee of distinguished industrialists and academics under the chairmanship of Mr C. C. Pocock, managing director of Shell, to investigate the education and training needs of European managers over the next 10 years. What factors and problems will the committee have to take into account?

During the early part of these years, organizations and their managers will still be looking at most of their activities through national eyes. But as the decade progresses, companies will tend to become more European in outlook and planning, operating in several countries, interchanging staff, products, processes and services. Sub-contracting across frontiers will increase, and decisions will have to be taken on the sharing out of production lines between countries—decision-making in which national governments must be involved.

Competition with North America and Japan will increase—and perhaps with other countries such as Brazil, where the combination of industrial know-how, cheap labour and an authoritarian political system may give it (in this context) advantages not shared by European countries.

Oil and other raw materials will become more expensive and the rising costs will influence the streamlining of techniques, company structures and personnel policies more than during the past 20 years.

The scope for action by companies and their managers may tend to decrease. Governments will become more dirigiste, constraining companies within narrower courses of action. Within the organizations, the increasing power of unions and worker participation will reduce the effective authority of managers who below the top level will be less able to control through the power vested in them by their boards. At the same time the politicization of organizations will gather pace, and they will be more open to pressures from all quarters.

With the new influence of the oil-producing countries, there will be a change in the world's capital markets—and, too, in the relationships between the wealthy but underdeveloped material producing countries, the industrialized

countries, and the non-oil Third World.

Where growth has hitherto been the touchstone of capitalist economic thought, many areas of the world and some sectors of national economies will have to accept the static state of zero growth as a fact of social and economic life and not as a disaster to be avoided by every overt course of action. From this will emerge new political relationships and new social philosophies.

How can European managers be helped to cope with these challenging circumstances over the next 10 years?

1. There will have to be a greater internationalization of management development programmes; opportunities must be provided for career development across frontiers in the early stages of careers. Languages and sensitivity to other cultures will become more important. A brilliant specialist, highly successful in his own country, may find obstacles to the top in the European context without special education and training.

2. In addition to a more methodical planning of careers, companies must be prepared to spend more time on formal training programmes for their managers who will need greater professionalism and knowledge over wider fields, for example, the behaviour of organizations, international politics and so on.

But with the need for more technical innovation which will come with increasing speed, managers will also have to be able to evaluate technological changes translated in terms of new products and processes. Perhaps the principle of sabbatical periods should be adopted by both industry and government.

3. In the training of managers there must surely be a greater emphasis on all that falls within the compass of human relations—relations within industry, the changes that have taken place in the behaviour of individuals and of groups towards corporate organizations and towards work, and the increasingly political characteristics of industrial behaviour.

Within management schools it is time that the labour economists (who have hitherto dominated the field of industrial relations) and the behavioural scientists work more closely together in integrated programmes covering all aspects of the human side of industry.

4. European managers will need to have a much greater

knowledge of economics, micro and macro, than the average manager has today. What are the realities and effects of inflation upon accounting, budgeting, cash flow and so on? The raising of finance, loans—what is the capital availability on the European and international scenes?

5. Although government dirigisme and worker participation will tend to restrict the operating parameters of companies and managements, the size and complexity of industrial organizations will demand a great deal of independent initiative on the part of managers.

A more integrated methodology of management will have to be developed within which managers must be taught to improvise, and, in the light of this, management schools will need to take a new look at the field of business policy.

6. New information systems will be developed to speed up the dissemination of information—up, down and laterally—and make it more efficient. Managers must learn to use and control these systems.

7. What is the place of business in society? Industrial managements are becoming more aware of the social responsibilities expected of them, and many managers are bewildered by the increasing responsibilities which they find society (through the media, pressure groups, and so on) is placing upon their shoulders.

There must be much more conceptual thinking and research on the relationship between managements and (a) environmental conservation, (b) pollution, (c) consumerism, (d) the rights of shareholders versus employees versus the public—and where the manager should stand within this sea of conflicting interests.

8. All too little attention has been paid in the past to the articulateness of managers: their ability to state clearly management's case in discussions with union leaders and industry's case in discussions with government officials—and, equally important, to get across to the public at large through the popular communications media, the important part which industry plays in producing the wealth upon which all other activities and services of a nation depend.

The capitalist structure of western industrialized societies will be under considerable strain during the next decade or two, and one of the most important items in the education and training of European



Mr C. C. Pocock, managing director of Shell.

managers will be the improvement in their ability to communicate logically, accurately and effectively.

9. The already mixed economies of Europe will become more so, and society today demands that public and private organizations cooperate and work more closely together. Industry must deal effectively with every level of official authority—local, regional, national, European, international.

Decisions taken by industry or government at one level will produce waves which can envelop all others. Training projects and programmes bringing managements, private and public, together will be essential.

And so there will be much for the European Foundation's committee to explore. Above all, no doubt, the modern managers' own: aspirations and ambitions will be taken into account. Mobility between private industry, non-profit making organizations and government service will tend to increase, and managers will want to ensure that they are equipped to serve in all fields.

Philip Nind is director of the Foundation for Management Education.

## North-west ailments need a stronger pill

It so happened that the Government's announcement of its £175m plan to help ease unemployment—and at the same time take some of the steam out of its more vociferous critics during the next few days in Blackpool—came on a day when a number of other, perhaps less significant, items of news appeared in the north-west. Less significant, that is, unless one is chanced to be one of the thousand or so workers who are facing redundancies at the Plessey factories on Merseyside or among the 550 others who learned that day that they are to lose their jobs at a Brown Boveri group plant at Wythenshawe, Manchester, because it is to close.

The Manchester factory makes electronic instruments for the textile industry, and its impending closure is blamed on the "general trade recession", a statement which will surprise no one who is aware of the fact that textile mills in the region have been closing at the rate of one a month over the past year and that the vast majority of the industry's workers have been on more or less permanent short time since last Christmas. And this, by the way, in an industry which little more than a year ago was looking confidently to better times, having by then shed some 36,000 of its workers as a result of rationalization—much of it government-inspired—and consequent closures over the previous few years.

It is then small wonder that the Government's latest measures have been met with some cynicism, rather than any discernible show of optimism, in the north-west. The adding, by the general tone of reported reaction—in any of the other hard-pressed areas of the country.

In the north-west total unemployment now stands at almost 7 per cent, a figure

## Industry in the Regions

which conceals much higher totals in places like Merseyside and some parts of north Lancashire. Even in the newly created Greater Manchester area which, because of industrial and commercial activities, has not previously been regarded as a problem zone for unemployment, the percentage of jobless has reached 5.4.

In numerical terms, these figures mean that the north-west now has almost 200,000 people out of work. So suppose that the Government's package achieves its objective of creating 100,000 new jobs (and doubts are already being cast on both the figure itself and the time scale in which the measures can be effective); and suppose that the task effort was being concentrated in the north-west region alone, then the effect would be to halve the unemployment rate. And this of course would only be true if at the same time further closures and redundancies were halted.

None of this is the case. The new forms of aid will be spread thinly right across the country, and a great many people in regions like the north-west, having now examined the proposals in detail, judge that in most areas their total effect will not only be marginal but perhaps counter productive.

Mr Colin Barnett, secretary of the TUC's north-west advisory committee, describes the package as "like offering an aspirin to a man suffering from a brain tumour". A harsh criticism, perhaps, but one which seems to sum up a widely held view in a region which has seen a great many of its hopes shattered during the past months of growing economic recession.

The region's unemployment is finally persuading the authorities in Whitehall and Westminster that the whole of the north-west should qualify for assistance under the Intermediate Area classification of national regional policies, has to a large extent become worthless in a period of falling investment by business generally.

Now, as a result of this week's announcement some of the kind of state aid that was originally intended to give a strong competitive edge to the country's problem areas, has been extended to the country at large. A state aid designed to correct regional imbalance becomes even more difficult.

With so many plans—especially those connected with clearing the huge backlog of industrial and urban dereliction and decay already believed because of its economic situation, the region sees little ground for optimism through the share it will receive of the relatively small sum now being made available for creating jobs of "social value". Nor is the general verdict on the proposals for relieving unemployment among school leavers a very favourable one.

Sir William Mather, chairman of the Mather and Platt engineering group, who has just retired after several years as chairman of the North-West Economic Planning Council, sums bluntly: "The subsidy of £5 a week for six months will have no effect at all on what people do." He calculates that it costs about £1,200 a year to train a young person in one of the main engineering skills over a period of three years.

Against this £5 a week for 26 weeks must be judged as extremely marginal by most potential employers, except perhaps those offering "dead end" jobs to youngsters.

R. W. Shakespeare

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### It costs £1,248 a year to train a teenager

From Sir William Mather  
Sir, Amongst the incentives offered on Wednesday by the Government to help reduce unemployment amongst school leavers, was a payment of £5 per week for six months for each additional trainee taken on.

There is still, and usually has been, an overall shortage of skilled men in the engineering industry, though there will invariably be some local surpluses.

A subsidised transfer scheme to encourage mobility, as also proposed, should obviously go some way to mitigating this and would benefit both the national economy and the individual concerned, but the overall shortage will remain unless more apprentices are trained.

Under current financial restraints few firms will feel able to afford to train more than their own minimum re-

quirements unless the additional cost is largely met from central funds. The direct cost of training a 16-year-old engineering apprentice in a practical training workshop, including his salary, NHI, materials, power, tools, overalls, and instruction, amounts to at least £24 per week or £1,248 p.a. In addition there are the normal overheads of rent, rates, administration etc.

I fear that an offer of £5 per week for six months, or £130, is unlikely to have any practical effect on either reducing unemployment amongst school leavers or increasing the number of skilled men. If it is to be more than an empty political gesture, the real costs must be met.

WILLIAM MATHER,  
British Mechanical Engineering Confederation Limited,  
112 Fernway Street,  
London SW1Y 4UR.

### Six-fold merely equals single

From Mr D. J. Tether.  
Sir, Some months ago in these columns you printed a number of letters on the topic of 5- and 6-fold trading stamps. One writer pointed out that 10-fold stamps, he knew gave 10-fold stamps, he missed the point.

The old standard for trading stamps was one stamp for every six old pence spent (one for 21p since decimalization). Thus with a 75p gallon of petrol, for example, one would expect to receive 30 stamps. A "Ten Fold" offer would boost this to 300 stamps. However, a new convention has been adopted whereby five stamps per gallon is the norm. This is just one sixth of the original amount; and enables garage to offer bogus bonuses where "5-fold" equals in effect, "Single".

Equal with all other inflationary processes the consumer gets even less for his money. Yours faithfully,  
D. J. TETHER  
Mount St Mary's College,  
Snickhill,  
Sheffield.

## Inefficient Post Office illustrates British 'paralysis of response' malady

From Mr David Holbrook  
Sir, I am only a self-supporting author, running what is virtually a small business handling my own manuscripts. I have worked in America and Australia, and whenever I come back from abroad I find in England what I can only call "drag", a kind of paralysis of response. I believe that this has been seriously deepened as a malady in our national life by the Post Office, and the government demand that it should be run "economically" as a self-supporting concern, while the Post Office itself has been increasingly inefficient.

Because of the increasing postal rates, people today use the second class service. This means that to write a letter and get a reply takes over a week. But not only that: there is a growing unwillingness to use both the telephone and the postal service, because of the huge costs as they now are. To this we must add the futility of adding complicated codes to the end of every address, on the letter itself, and on the envelope, none of which are used because the machinery is not yet fully operative.

The effect has been to generate a sense of frustration and futility throughout our national life. Increasingly, people do not reply, or reply so late it doesn't matter. Things do not appear, either because they are lost, or because they never get in the envelope, or because it didn't in the end seem worth putting them in the envelope. Spontaneous mail letters, expressing ideas, or simply expressing gratitude, or making personal contact, or trying out possibilities, simply no longer exist, because we just can't afford to be free with it. The general feeling is one of loss of morale, and of getting nowhere. Behind the postal paralysis people use the blankness to fall down on payments due, or to delay payments.

The cost of this central morbidification of the nervous system of our economy and culture must be astronomical. It is, of course, killing the book trade. The only solution is to reduce postal charges again to a level that makes for efficiency, not in terms of mere postal office autonomy (a ridiculous concept anyway) but in terms of the liveliness of the whole system. Yours etc.

DAVID HOLBROOK,  
New Farm House,  
Maddingley,  
Cambridge,  
September 22, 1975.

From Dr A. D. Manning  
Sir, The causes of the failure of our nationalised services to run economically can be exemplified by the GPO's attitude to telephone transfer charges. These are to be increased from 4p to 30p a time. In my own practice the extra cost is estimated at over £500 p.a.

The revenue to the Post Office from this service will fall and the unit cost will increase further because con-

sumers are now turning to alternatives, eg. answering machines.

An enquiry to the telephone service on the subject of alternatives produced only a postcard of acknowledgment. A telephone follow-up by us produced the promise of a visit by a sales representative "some time". However, each of four calls to private companies produced an informed salesman within 24 hours.

Is this not counterproductive? Yours faithfully,  
A. D. MANNING,  
63 The Drive,  
Edgware, Middx.

From Mr C. B. Hindley  
Sir, I feel sure that many members of the public must, like me, have been inconvenienced by the Post Office practice of returning letters or packets to the sender a mere six working days after a postman has been unable to effect delivery.

Furthermore, my local post office informs me that no record is made concerning the sender of the letter, so that the would-be recipient is left completely in the dark concerning the source and nature of the letter, while the sender may well assume that the addressee has moved to another address.

Given that several million people take holidays of more than one week each year, very large numbers of communications must be returned to senders at the expense of considerable time and effort on the part of all concerned, and frustration on the part of those attempting to communicate.

Perhaps this practice arose in the days when the only people likely to be away from home for longer than six days were assumed either to have left behind a small band of domestic

retainers to hold the fort, or to have disappeared without leaving any trace, perhaps by means of a moonlight flit, or into Her Majesty's custody.

Would it not save a great deal of time, trouble, and expense for all concerned, if undelivered mail were kept at post offices for a month?

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN B. HINDLEY,  
University of London Institute of Education,  
58 Gordon Square,  
London WC1H 0NT.

From Mr W. Irving  
Sir, There must surely be very few right-thinking people, who would not wholeheartedly support the proposal made by Mr Ian Neilson.

The spirit of Christmas has been cherished and observed for centuries past, and should certainly be maintained during the gloomy period now prevailing.

The light relief suggested would bring joy and happy memories to a great many, and those engaged in the production of greetings cards, would derive substantial benefit, while the hard-pressed Post Office would surely jump at the certainty of adding a "lucrative" profit, with which to reduce its deficit, even at the reduced rates suggested, to operate through the last month of the year, which would include the millions of New Year cards particularly popular "over the border".

It is difficult to see anything against the proposal but quite easy to realize the joy and material advantages which would result from its prompt adoption.

WILLIAM IRVING  
23, Pembroke Square,  
London, W2.

## F. S. Ratcliffe Industries Ltd.

### EXTRACTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

at the Annual General Meeting in Rochdale on the 28th September 1975.

\* In spite of difficult conditions, I am pleased to report a successful year. Turnover was £1,381,231 compared with £1,156,249 in 1974.

The Group profit before taxation of £185,945 compares favourably with £184,400 of last year. Net profit after taxation was £85,583 against £85,804.

\* Pre-tax profit of Arthur Lord & Sons (Rochdale) Ltd. is £55,076 against £52,612 in 1974. This result in the light of many problems in the Building & Allied Trades is very satisfactory.

\* The forward order book is again in a healthy state and our policy with regard to quality control and service is being maintained.

\* A final dividend of 2.24p per share is recommended, making a total of 4.23p per share (1974 3.9572p).

## Ozalid Interim Report:

### COPING WITH DIFFICULT CONDITIONS

	Half Year to 30.6.75 £'000s	Half Year to 30.6.74 £'000s	Year to 31.12.74 £'000s
Group Turnover	40,900	40,600	79,800
Exports and Sales overseas	22,400	22,400	42,900
Trading Profit	3,408	5,216	9,964
Profit before Taxation	2,776	4,573	8,942
Less Taxation	1,582	2,245	4,588
Profit after Taxation	1,215	2,267	4,302
Earnings per Share	4.53p	9.66p	17.3p

In the circulated report, the Chairman, Mr. N. J. Kiely states that the forecast in the last Report and Account is proving correct. Difficult trading conditions have affected our sales and profits world-wide. A reduction in demand has increased competition and reduced profitability.

However, economy measures have been taken to protect margins against cost increases which cannot be passed on because of legislation. Increased efficiency and economy are also the policy in our overseas operations, and new markets are actively being sought in places like the Middle East, the USSR and other Comecon countries. The UK outlook is obscure and we will do well to maintain the level of profits in the second half of the year.

**OZALID GROUP HOLDINGS LIMITED**  
Langston Road, Loughton,  
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Registrars:  
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A statement by Mr W. A. de Vignier, Chairman of the Acrow Group



1974 was the best year in Acrow's history. The consolidated profits, before tax, amounted to £5,889,000, an increase of £2,101,000 over the previous year.

Your directors have decided to recommend a final dividend of 1.938745p per share (excluding tax credit).

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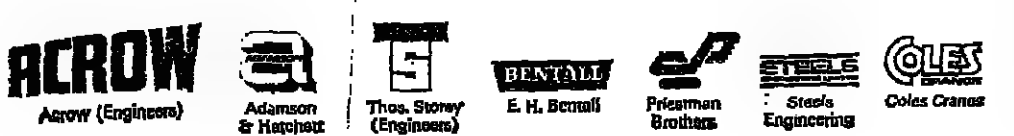
We are now positioned for what I consider to be our most significant growth phase.

## Results at a glance

	1975	1974
Turnover	£79,825,000	£60,711,000 up 31.48%
Exports	£34,291,000	£24,210,000 up 41.64%
Profit Before Tax	£ 5,889,000	£ 3,788,000 up 55.46%
Earnings Per Share	8.59p	5.60p up 53.39%
Dividend Per Share (including tax credit)	5.674992p	5.223881p up 8.64%

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## Capitalization & week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Sept 22. Dealings End Oct 3. & Contrango Day, Oct 6. Settlement Day, Oct 14.

6 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

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From £1.25 per week**

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Stock	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price	Chg	Grnd	Cap	Price
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